Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph one, page 11 with the following paragraph:

With reference to Fig. 4, an overall circuit path which reuses line-protected links in primary and alternate paths will be described in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. A network 400 includes nodes 402 and links 406. Links 406 include 1+1 links 406a, 406b, and unprotected links 406c-l. Node 402c and node 402d are in communication across two unprotected links 406c, 406j. When an overall circuit path is to be determined between a source node 402a and a destination node 402d, a primary path may include 1+1 link 406a, 1+1 link 406b, and unprotected link 406c. Once 1+1 link 406a and 1+1 link 406b are included in a primary path, the costs associated with also using 1+1 link 406a and 1+1 link 406b in a corresponding alternate path is relatively low.

Please replace paragraph one, page 12 with the following paragraph:

Referring next to Fig. 5, one method of creating an overall circuit path between a source node and a destination node which allows for the use of line-protected links in a path protected segment will be described in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. A process 500 of creating an overall circuit path such as a UPSR which allows the use of line-protected links in a path protected segment begins at step 502 in which a primary path from a source node, e.g., node A1 602a of Fig. 6a, and a destination node, e.g., node D1 602d of Fig. 6a, is identified. The primary path may be identified using substantially any routing algorithm or route generator, as for example a shortest path first algorithm, and may be executed using a processing unit that is associated with an overall network. Suitable algorithms include, but are not limited to, those described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/872,177 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,051,113 issued May 23, 2006), 09/872,141 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,031,253 issued April 18, 2006), 09/872,176 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,975,588 issued December 13, 2005), and 09/909,049 (pending), which are each incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The processing unit may be a part of a computing device which is in communication with the overall network, or the processing unit may be implemented on a node within the network. When appropriate, the primary path may include path-protected segments which use line-protected links.

Please replace paragraph one, page 13 with the following paragraph

After costs are assigned to links in a network, potential alternate paths between a source node and a destination node which may be suitable for protecting a primary path between the source node and the destination node are computed in step 508. Suitable methods for computing alternate paths include, but are not limited to, methods described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/872,141 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,031,253 issued April 18, 2006) and 09/909,049 (pending), which have been incorporated by reference. In step 510, the lowest cost path which protects the primary path is identified as the alternate path which is to protect the primary path. Once the alternate path is identified, the process of creating an overall circuit path is completed.